

Application No. 10/721,126

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney thanks the examiner for the careful review of both the description and claims of this application. Each of the items enumerated by the examiner have been addressed by this amendment.

As noted by the Office Action, claims 23-41 are pending with claims 23-29 and 31-36 being allowed. Claims 37-39 are rejected and claims 30, 40 and 41 are objected to. The above amendments to the claims are believed to place all claims in form for allowance.

Claims 37-39 are rejected under 35 USC 112 for lack of antecedent basis for the "via dielectric layer" in claim 37. The dependency of claim 37 is changed to depend from claim 35, which claim recites the "via dielectric layer". Accordingly, this change places claims 37-39 in proper form for allowance.

Claims 30 and 41 are objected to for lack of antecedent basis for "conductor". Correction is made by inserting "conductor" as an element of the "interconnect layer" in the claim preamble. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 30 and 41 are in proper form for allowance.

Claim 40 is objected to for redundancy in line 13. The redundant phrase is deleted thus placing claim 40 in form for allowance.

Errors in reference numbers are addressed by the enclosed replacement sheets.

All of the pending claims now being in form for allowance, such allowance and passage to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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